Dear Bud, 9/14/78

While preparing for this early morning's departure for a status call and hearing a news item on the radio I thought about the performances of the critical non-community in its truth-squad operation vis-a-vis the House assassins.

Nothing that has happened surprises me, from the committee to the critics and so-called critics to the results and non-results. If your memory permits I forecast it all this past May when I offered myself for the function. I have no personal resentment that my idea was taken, without me. I've not been able to keep up with work that has some meaning for me as it is.

As I wrote Paul before he left for DC I have no interest in getting involved in any competitive situation in such an operation. I am not looking for personal attention and to a large degree have avoided it.

Unfortunately, what had to be done was not done, in part because there was no one down there able to do it and in part because there was no one down there who understood how to make the effort.

This is typified by a story Lifton told me, if his word can be taken. And who weaseled him in I do not know for he has done no dependeable work and is not a depenadble person. His story is that the urgent message Paul gave him in the last minute was not to forget, because it was very important, that if it had not been for Nichols Guinn would not have had any ammo for background studies.

The importance is and will be lost upon me in any scale of importances that from my knowledge of the matter is within reason.

That Guinn lied in his testimony, it seems to me, was much more important. And that in this area, as in most other critical areas, there is but one who has done the original work, one who had the requisite factual knowledge. Lifton didn't.

Aside from knowledge, which Paul has and can retrieve superlatively, there is what in such situations is much more important - what one does with the knowledge and the limited time available.

Their basic expert on the basic evidence lied and was not caught up on this. I mean lied, not just made factual errors. In general this applies to all their expert testimony - and I saw and heard nothing effective about any of this. If such matters were not to be detected and confronted I see no real purpose in any effort.

The time I was not called upon to invest was valuable to me. I think I put it to good use. Having the time enabled me to do what otherwise I would not have been able to do. So on a personal basis I'm quite satisfied. But if what is personal is all that interests me I'd not be writing you, with the regret that nobody wants to lear or, seemingly, can.

The committee has been giving much stuff out. Some of it can be useful in on-going FOIA cases. If you can get a set and leave it for Jim I can go over it and see what may have uses. I'll be in town again on the 28th. Some of the visuals hold such promise. Guinn's exhibits/report does I know.

Sincerely,